

Form OP-186

Connecticut Individual Use Tax Return

Enter Calendar Year Beginning ► January 1, 20____, and Ending December 31, 20____

Use this form to report and pay Connecticut use tax. This form may be used to report a single transaction or multiple transactions occurring in the same calendar year. You may file more than one use tax return for a given calendar year, but you cannot combine transactions from different years. Use tax may also be reported on your Connecticut income tax return (**Forms CT-1040 or CT-1040NR/PY**). Complete the return in blue or black ink only.

Enter the calendar year the purchases being reported were made at the top of this return. Enter your name and Social Security Number (SSN) in the spaces provided below. You may file a separate return or a joint return. If you are filing a joint return, enter your spouse's name and SSN. Your filing status for income tax purposes does not affect your filing status for use tax purposes.

Your first name and middle initial ►		Last name ►		Your Social Security Number _ _ _ : _ _ : _ _ _ _ _	
If a joint return, spouse's first name and middle initial ►		Last name ►		Spouse's Social Security Number _ _ _ : _ _ : _ _ _ _ _	
Home address ►		Number and street ►		PO Box ►	
City, town, or post office ►		State ►		ZIP code ►	
DRS use only					

Worksheet Instructions

- Column 1:** Enter the month and day of the purchase.
- Column 2:** Enter a brief description of the taxable item or service purchased (jewelry, computer, etc.).
- Column 3:** Enter the name of the retailer the item or service was purchased from.
- Column 4:** Enter the purchase price.
- Column 5:** Multiply the purchase price in Column 4 by 6% or the applicable rate and enter the result. Computer and data processing services are taxed at 1%.

Column 6: If you paid sales tax to another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. territory, enter the amount paid.

Column 7: Subtract the amount entered in Column 6 from the amount entered in Column 5 and enter the difference in Column 7. Do not enter negative amounts. If zero or less, enter "0." Add Column 7 amounts and enter total on Line 1 below. If no tax is due, do not file this return.

If you require additional lines, you should create an identical schedule, include the Column 7 amounts in the total, and attach it to the back of the form.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7
Date of Purchase	Description of Goods or Services	Retailer or Service Provider	Purchase Price	CT Tax Due (Col. 4 X .06)	Taxes Paid	Balance Due (Col. 5 minus Col. 6)
Add Column 7 amounts and enter total here and on Line 1 below.						

1. Total tax due: From Worksheet, Column 7. ►	1		00
2. Penalty: For failure to pay tax when due - 10% (.10) of the tax due. ... ►	2		00
3. Interest: For late payment - 1% (.01) of tax due per month or fraction of a month from due date. ►	3		00
4. Total amount due: Add Lines 1, 2, and 3. ►	4		00

Do not mail this return with your income tax return. Make check payable to: **Commissioner of Revenue Services**. To ensure your payment is applied to your account, write the **calendar year** of the return, "**Form OP-186**", and your SSN, optional, on the front of your check. Do not send cash. The Department of Revenue Services (DRS) may submit your check to your bank electronically. Mail this return with check to: Department of Revenue Services, State of Connecticut, PO Box 2973, Hartford CT 06104-2973.

Due Date: This return may be filed at the time of purchase, but not later than April 15 for purchases made during the preceding calendar year.

Declaration: I declare under penalty of law that I have examined this return (including any accompanying schedules and statements) and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, complete, and correct. I understand the penalty for willfully delivering a false return or document to DRS is a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. The declaration of a paid preparer other than the taxpayer is based on all information of which the preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here Keep a copy for your records.	Your signature		Date	Spouse's signature		Date
	Paid preparer's signature			Date		Preparer's Tax Identification Number (PTIN) or SSN
	Firm name and address			Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)		

Q & A on the Connecticut Individual Use Tax

Here are answers to some commonly-asked questions about the Connecticut use tax. You must pay the Connecticut use tax on taxable goods and services when a Connecticut merchant fails to collect Connecticut sales tax from you or when you purchase taxable goods or services for use in Connecticut from an out-of-state merchant.

1. What is the use tax?

Use tax is the tax you pay when Connecticut sales tax is not paid to a retailer. The use tax is complementary to the sales tax. Together, the sales and use taxes act to tax Connecticut purchasers equally whether they purchase goods and services inside or outside of Connecticut.

2. On what kinds of goods or services must I pay use tax?

You must pay use tax on taxable tangible personal property whether purchased or leased. Examples of taxable tangible personal property include items of clothing costing \$50 or more, automobiles, appliances, furniture, jewelry, cameras, VCRs, computers, and computer software. Some taxable services include repair services to your television, motor vehicle, or computer; landscaping services for your home; and reupholstering services for your household furniture.

3. Are there exemptions from the use tax?

Yes. Some examples are items of clothing that cost less than \$50 or repair and maintenance services to vessels.

Most tax exemptions are listed in the current version of the *Getting Started in Business* publication. For a comprehensive list, see Conn. Gen. Stat. §12-412.

4. What is the use tax rate?

In general, the use tax rate for purchases of taxable goods or services is 6%. However, computer and data processing services are taxed at 1%.

5. What if a Connecticut retailer doesn't collect tax from me on a sale of taxable goods or services?

You must report the use tax liability on a **Form OP-186, Connecticut Individual Use Tax Return**, or you can use the electronic **Taxpayer Service Center (TSC)** to file your **Form CT-1040, Connecticut Resident Income Tax Return**, or **Form CT-1040NR/PY, Connecticut Nonresident or Part-Year Resident Income Tax Return**, for purchases made during the preceding calendar year.

6. When must individuals pay the use tax?

You must file your Connecticut income tax return by April 15 for the preceding calendar year. If you are not required to file a Connecticut income tax return, you must pay the use tax using Form OP-186. You may file Form OP-186 for the entire year or you may file several returns throughout the year but, in either case, Form OP-186 is due by April 15 for the preceding calendar year. If the purchases are made in connection with a trade or business carried on by an individual, see Question 12.

7. What if I buy taxable goods or services from an out-of-state mail-order company, television shopping channel, or computerized shopping service and no Connecticut tax is charged by the vendor?

If you buy goods or services for use in Connecticut, you must report the use tax liability on your Connecticut income tax return or Form OP-186 for purchases you made during the preceding calendar year.

8. What if I buy taxable goods or services in another state and the vendor charges sales tax for the other state?

If the goods or services were purchased for use in Connecticut and you have taken title to the goods outside Connecticut and the tax correctly paid to the other state is less than the Connecticut tax, you must report and pay the use tax. Your use tax is the difference between the Connecticut tax and the tax paid to the other state. If the tax paid to the other state is equal to or more than the Connecticut tax, you owe no use tax to Connecticut. There is no refund for tax paid to another state when that state's tax rate exceeds 6%.

Example: You purchased a \$1,000 refrigerator in another state and paid a \$50 tax to that state. If you bought the refrigerator for use in Connecticut, you owe Connecticut use tax. The Connecticut tax of \$60 is reduced to \$10 after allowing \$50 credit for the tax paid to the other state. If no tax was paid to the other state, Connecticut use tax is \$60.

9. Is an out-of-state merchant misleading me if he tells me I do not need to pay Connecticut use tax?

Yes. While you may not have to pay sales tax in the state where you bought the goods or services, you **must** pay Connecticut use tax on taxable goods or services purchased for use in Connecticut.

10. Do I owe Connecticut use tax on all my out-of-state purchases of taxable goods and services?

No. If all the items you purchased and **brought into** Connecticut at one time total \$25 or less, you do not have to pay Connecticut use tax. The \$25 exemption does not apply to items **shipped or mailed** to you.

11. Can an out-of-state business collect Connecticut use tax on taxable goods that are mailed or delivered into Connecticut?

Yes. If the business is registered to collect Connecticut use tax, it must collect the tax from you. If the business is not registered, then you must report and pay the tax yourself.

12. Does a person engaged in a trade or business have to pay use tax on purchases made for the trade or business?

Yes. If the person makes taxable purchases of goods (such as office furniture, computers, and supplies) or services out-of-state for use in a trade or business, that person should be registered with the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) for business use tax purposes and report purchases on **Form OS-114, Sales and Use Tax Return**. See **Informational Publication 2003(31), Q & A on the Connecticut Use Tax for Businesses and Professions**.

13. What are the penalties and interest for not paying the use tax?

The penalty is 10% of the tax due. Interest is charged at the rate of 1% per month from the due date of the tax return. There are also criminal sanctions for willful failure to file a tax return.

14. What are the use tax filing requirements for motor vehicles, snowmobiles, vessels, and aircraft?

Generally, if the item is not purchased from a retailer, the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles collects the use tax when you register a motor vehicle, snowmobile, or vessel. You must report the use tax liability on aircraft on your Connecticut income tax return or on Form OP-186. If you do not intend to register your motor vehicle, snowmobile, or vessel immediately after you purchase it, you must report the use tax liability for purchases made during the prior calendar year on your Connecticut income tax return or Form OP-186. If the purchase is made in connection with a trade or business carried on by an individual, see Question 12.

15. On what amount should the use tax be calculated?

Calculate the use tax by multiplying the total cost of the taxable goods or services purchased, including separately stated charges such as shipping and handling, by the tax rate (generally 6%).

For More Information: Call DRS during business hours, Monday through Friday:

- **1-800-382-9463** (Connecticut calls outside the Greater Hartford calling area only); **or**
- **860-297-5962** (from anywhere).

TTY, TDD, and Text Telephone Users only may transmit inquiries anytime by calling 860-297-4911.

Forms and Publications: Visit the DRS website at www.ct.gov/DRS to download and print Connecticut tax forms and publications.